Introduction of Super Fast Express Trains

36. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUM-BI:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Superfast[Express-trains which were introduced since the present Government took over charge; and

(b) the details thereof in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) One pair.

(b) 2403;2404 Kanpur- Varanaci Shramik Express w.e.f. 3-12-90.

Price of Onion

37. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item under the caption "Onions Rs. 16 per Kg. " which appeared in the Independent, dated the 8th January 1991; and

<b) if so, what steps have been taken to save the poor in Bombay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHAND-BHAI SHAH): (a) and (b) The sharp increase in the retail Prices of Onion at Bombay upto Rs. 16 per Kg. was only temporary and was because of a transport strike which prevented the timely movement of the stocks to the City. According to the latest information available (i.e. upto 8th February, 1991), retail prices of Onion are ruling at Rs. 4-6 per kg. at Bombay.

Storage of Essential Commodities in various Depots in North-East

38. SHRI G. G. SWELL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of depots in the North-East and their localities where essential commodities to meet the needs of people have been stocked in view of the uncertain situation in the wake of the Gulf War;

(b) the- present quantity in these depots item-wise and the period for which the stock has been built; and

(c) the names of the States that have informed about their monthly requirements?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) to (c) As part of the public distribution process, rice and sugar and as n 15-2-91 for stocked at various depots in the North-East. A depot-wise and item-wise statement as on 1.2.91 for wheat, rice and sugar and as on 15.2.91 for edible oils is enclosed.

As on 1.2.91, the quantity of wheat and rice available in the region was at a level of more than $1\ ^{1}/_{2}$ months requirement.

The States of Arunachal Pradesh Tripura, Assam, Nagaland and Megha-laya have sent their demands for PDS rice and wheat for February; March, 1991. In case of sugar, allotments are made on the basis of per capita scale. In case of edible oil, States of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura have intimated their requirements of imported edible oil for the year 1990-91.